

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02 PA-01

USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 CU-02

/080 W

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R 200600Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5196

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LKUIS 0380

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MP

SUBJECT: STUDENT STRIKES

1. SHORT STUDENT STRIKES DURING LAST TWO WEEKS AT GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT ISLAND HAVE MERGED INTO GENERAL STUDENT WALKOUT. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE STUDENT GRIEVANCES AND CALLED FOR STUDENTS TO RETURN TO THEIR SCHOOLS BUT MAY 19 HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS IN UNIFORM MARCHED IN STREETS OF PORT LOUIS TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO PROTEST BAD ADMINISTRATION. POLICE UNOBSTRUSIVELY OUT IN FULL FORCE. MINISTER OF EDUCATION CHAPERON HAS REPORTEDLY CALLED STRIKES POLITICALLY INSPIRED.

2. STUDENTS HAVE MUCH TO COMPLAIN ABOUT IN PRESENT SYSTEM. MINORITY OF SECONDARY STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO ENTER GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS. LARGE MAJORITY PAY TO ATTEND STATE-SUBSIDIZED OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS. SYSTEM BADLY ADMINISTERED, TEACHERS ARE ILL-QUALIFIED AND ARBITRARILY MOVED FROM CLASS TO CLASS WHILE
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SCHOOL PROPRIETORS MORE INTERESTED IN MAKING A PROFIT THAN

EDUCATING STUDENTS. ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS DIFFER,
WELL-ORGANIZED NATIONWIDE WALK-OUT NOW INDICATES ATTEMPT BY
POLITICAL LEFT-WING TO CHANNEL LEGITIMATE STUDENT GRIEVANCES
INTO ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS. SO FAR DEMONSTRATIONS
ARE PEACEFUL BUT GOM INEPTNESS AT AVERTING CRISES COULD LEAD
TO MORE SERIOUS ANTI-GOVERNMENT DISTURBANCES.
HEATLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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